(b) and (c) Value added products such as readymade garments, in general, fetch more foreign exchange than yarn or fabrics. However, since there is an international demand for different textile products, viz. yarn, fabrics, made-ups and garments, it has been felt necessary to encourage the exports of all these products.

In order to boost the exports of textiles, Government have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets; fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; Special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

*[English]*

**Special Magistrates to reduce the Petty Crimes**

6600. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the State Governments are authorised to utilise the machinery of law under the Criminal Procedure Code which enables them to appoint Special Magistrates to reduce the load of petty crimes;

(b) whether the Government are also aware that the decision to invoke these permission was taken in 1993 at the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices presided over by the Prime Minister;

(c) whether a large number of States have taken any action on this decision;

(d) if so, whether any directives have been issued to all the States in this regard; and

(e) if so, how many of the State Governments have assured to implement the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Most of the State Governments have appointed Special Judicial Magistrates/Special Metropolitan Magistrates or have initiated action to appoint these Megistrates under Section 13 of the Criminal Procedure Code for the Disposal of petty criminal cases. Further, the Supreme Court of India, in the matter of Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 5943 of 1980 – Kadra Pahadiya & Ors. Vs. State of Bihar in its judgement dated 19.3.1997 has given directions for the appointment of an adequate number of Special Judicial Magistrates/Special Metropolitan Magistrates at an early date for the disposal of petty cases.

**EU New Barriers on Indian Rice**

6601. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken serious view of the European Union's new barriers on rice imports in the World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, whether India has made it clear that they will not succumb to the European Union's pressure tactics and will challenge the implementation of the CRS (Cumulative Recovery System) at all levels;

(c) whether the European Union has been working on the CRS that would require importers to pay full duty on the rice;

(d) whether the Experts' opinion has been asked for by his Ministry in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (f) The European Commission has notified a new regulation for import of rice to European Union (EU) which would come into effect from 01.07.1997. Under this regulation, an importer in European Union has been given an option either to become a Cumulative Recovery System (CRS) importer or to remain out of it. Importers joining the CRS would be required to pay the import duties as applicable under the regulations and claim refunds of the excess amount paid, if any, at periodic intervals. India has made its position known to EU on the new regulation for import of rice, after consulting the trade.

**Transportation of Coal**

6602. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of misuse of position of Ex-servicemen for grabbing the coal transportation work in various subsidiaries of Coal India Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c) Only agencies owned by Ex-servicemen and sponsored by Director General of Resettlement, Ministry of Defence are offered transport contracts. However, in view of certain complaints received about the operation of such agencies, CIL Board has constituted a High level Committee to review engagement of Ex-servicemen Transport agencies.

**EU New Barriers on Indian Rice against WTO Norms**

6603. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR :
SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that European Union has imposed anti-dumping duties on Indian rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the likely impact on our export of rice to the European Union during this year and the coming years;

(d) whether the Government have taken up the matter with the European Union;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reaction of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Export of Handloom and Handicrafts Items**

6604. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for the export of handloom and handicraft items for the last three years and the extent to which the target has been achieved;

(b) the quantum of foreign exchange earned thereby during the said period;

(c) the target set for the export of the said items during 1997-98 and the quantum of foreign exchange likely to be earned there from;

(d) whether the Government propose to export these items, statewise; and

(e) if so, the action taken so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b) The targets fixed for the exports of cotton handloom textiles and handicraft items for the last three years and the achievements against them have been as follows :

(In Million US dollars)

(Provisional)

| | Cotton Handloom Textiles | | Handicrafts | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | Target | Achievement | Target | Achievement |
| 1994-95 | 475 | 479.19 | 1234 | 1321.71 |
| 1995-96 | 500 | 448.54 | 1542 | 1497.87 |
| 1996-97 | 470 | 495.48 | 1600 | 1585.53 |

(c) For 1997-98, targets of US $ 520 million and US $ 1835 million have been fixed for the export of cotton handloom textiles and handicrafts respectively. The targets are likely to be achieved.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

*[English]*

**Agarbathi Industries**

6605. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court has delivered an order imposing ban on bamboo felling;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether agarbathi industry is on the verge of a closure as a result thereof;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a number of small scale agarbathi units have already been closed due to lack of bamboo slits; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government for revival of these industries ?